

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT:

The Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians.

Edited by F. SEYMOUR SMITH, M.L.A., Bethnal Green Public Libraries, E.2.

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EDITORIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Inaugural Meeting of the 34th Session of the Association of Assistant Librarians will be held on Wednesday, October 10th, at the London School of Economics, at 6.30 p.m. An address will be given by Humbert Wolfe, Esq., C.B.E., on *Verse and the General Reader*. The chair will be occupied by George Sampson, Esq., Hon. M.A. (Camb.).

The meeting held last year was the most well-attended inaugural meeting ever held by this Association, and the Council is justified, we think, in anticipating that Mr. Humbert Wolfe's address will attract an even larger number of members and visitors. We particularly hope that all of the Divisions will be represented, and for the convenience of those members who come from a distance we may assume that, should the time of commencement of the meeting remain unaltered the proceedings will undoubtedly terminate before 9 o'clock. If members who are travelling from the Divisions and who anticipate difficulty or inconvenience in returning the same night will communicate with Mr. R. D. Hilton Smith, Public Library, Ashburton Park, Croydon, we understand that he will endeavour to make arrangements with London members for hospitality. We must congratulate Mr. Hilton Smith on the success of his efforts in thus arranging what promises to be a delightful evening. Further announcements concerning

an afternoon programme which has been tentatively suggested and confirmation of the commencing hour will appear in the October *Library Assistant*.

NEW COMMITTEES: *Finance and General Purposes.*—Mr. G. V. Vale (Chairman), Miss D. McLardy, Messrs. Austing, Chubb, Hurford, Woods and Sandry (Hon. Secretary).

Press and Publications.—Miss Rees (Chairman), Miss Gerard, Messrs. Briggs, Cashmore, Hunt, Richards, Snaith and F. Seymour Smith (Hon. Secretary).

Education and Library.—Mr. F. Bussey (Chairman), Miss Appleby, Miss Exley, Messrs. Haigh, Hayward, Muskett, O'Leary, Miss Toms (Hon. Librarian), and Hilton Smith (Hon. Secretary).

Classes for Assistants.—The Officers, Miss Exley (Hon. Secretary), Hilton Smith, and one representative from each of the Divisions.

Benevolent Fund.—The President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Miss Rees, Messrs. Austing, Chubb and Vale.

The Next Meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, September 12th, at 7 p.m., at the National Library for the Blind, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

ASLIB will hold its Fifth Annual Conference at New College, Oxford, during the week-end, September 14th—17th. Full particulars will be supplied on application to the Secretary, Mr. S. S. Bullock, 26, Bedford Square, W.C. Mr. F. E. Sandry, the Hon. Treasurer, will officially represent the A.A.L.

The Library Association December Examinations.—The dates fixed for the next examinations are as follows:—

Monday, December 10th, 1928.—Section 3, Classification.

Tuesday, December 11th, 1928.—Section 4, Cataloguing.

Wednesday, December 12th, 1928.—Section 5, Library Organisation.

Thursday, December 13th, 1928.—Section 6, Library Routine.

Friday, December 14th, 1928.—Section 1, Literary History.

Saturday, December 15th, 1928.—Section 2, Bibliography.

All entries for the examinations must be made upon the official form and sent to the office of the Library Association, 26-27, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, not later than 31st October, 1928, after which date no applications will be entertained.

For this and the two subsequent examinations, there will be alternative subjects for the Special Period in English Literary History, namely:

"Wordsworth and his circle: with special study of the Prelude," or
"1830—1860."

Commencing with May, 1930, the Special Period set will be:

"Dr. Johnson and his circle."

Correspondence Courses.—Correspondence Courses will be held as usual from October to May. Applications on the official forms must be sent to the Secretary not later than 15th October, 1928.

Censorship, by Mr. Snaith, seems to have pleased most people who read it. Those interested may also find food for thought in a letter entitled "Sir Archibald Bodkin again," in the *New Statesman* dated August 4th. It would be of value to have a list of books which the English people are deprived of by the intervention of the police authorities. At the moment we can think of Joyce's *Ulysses*, Ellis's *Psychology of sex*, the entire works of a great French writer—Pierre Louys, D. H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow*, and, presumably, Proust's *Sodome et Gomorrhe*. The ban on the presentation of Pirandello's masterpiece has of course been lifted recently, but there must be many more forbidden books of which few people are aware.

The Symposium which we have the honour and pleasure to print this month (see page 184) is the result of grouping together the considered and solicited statements of well-known librarians and of assistant librarians whose experience and position make their opinions of value and interest. Nothing is claimed for this symposium save that it serves to reveal in some degree the attitude of representative men and women in our profession towards this most important problem. Since our last issue, we have been able, like other members of the Library Association, to catch a glimpse of what is passing in the minds of those at present engaged in revising the Constitution of the Library Association. We must state candidly at the outset that nothing but disappointment awaits the librarian or assistant librarian who thinks to find in the draft of the proposed new Constitution some good and acceptable avenue of approach towards the eventual merging of the two associations principally concerned.* So far as we can judge,

*This was written before the final revision was issued. The proposed Constitution, as it goes before the Annual Meeting at Blackpool, is a much more hopeful and businesslike affair.

the following clause has been drafted and included for the purpose of making a doorway through which the A.A.L. as a whole may pass through (if it so wishes) into some sort of parlour where seats will be allotted to it from which it may watch the proceedings of the smaller Body. (We will not write parent Body because the L.A. did not give birth to the A.A.L., the latter being undoubtedly a case of spontaneous generation). The Clause referred to is :

"The Association shall be managed . . . by a Council consisting of a President, three Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Solicitor, and not more than twenty-seven Councillors, of whom six shall be within a radius of thirty miles from Charing Cross, twelve shall be beyond that radius, three shall be Institution members, *and a number not exceeding six . . . shall be elected as representatives of such special sections of the Association as may be organised.*"

We must leave our members to judge for themselves whether their active and virile Association would benefit in taking advantage of this clause in order to become a "Section," without adequate representation, of a professional Body with which almost everybody seems profoundly dissatisfied. Our own view, as we have stated emphatically on previous occasions, is that complete amalgamation will be the making of the library profession, and by complete amalgamation we mean one association governed by an absolutely democratically elected Council. What the A.A.L. wants is a Library Association so constituted that complete transference of the bulk of the membership of the A.A.L. will be practicable and advantageous. This will only become possible if the annual subscription for ordinary membership for those on small salaries is reduced to not more than 12/6 per annum. With a Council elected on a truly simple and democratic basis the policy of the Library Association would then be in the hands of the bulk of the profession. For it is becoming more and more evident that the Library Association will only be truly representative of the profession as a whole, that it will only become virile in outlook and courageously active in policy when a large percentage of the Council is composed of men and women under forty years of age.

We have been told by a modern sage that every man over forty is a scoundrel. Well, without doing anything with this witsquib, save to place it in a corner where it will quietly burn itself out, we must admit that government of the young by men over forty whose careers are for the most part settled

and safe on the loftiest plateau they can reach, is bound to lead to gentle apathy, general inactivity and to protracted mental siestas, both in the governed and the governors. That there are many men on the present Council who are over forty, yet who are energetic, learned, wise and businesslike, we do not deny; that many a man of twenty-five might envy the bellicose virility of the late Frank Pacy we would still less dispute; yet the fact remains that the domination of a profession by its older members has been and must always be fatal to progress. There are so many problems waiting to be solved that we sincerely hope that the fundamental one of amalgamation will be tackled in the right spirit, promptly and decisively. The examination syllabus, for instance, must sooner or later be brought into line with modern practice; that is, we tentatively suggest, the subjects must be revised, arranged into groups, elementary, intermediate and final, and candidates must be expected to pass in all the subjects in one group at the same examination. Had some such scheme as this been in operation, the Secretary of the NALGO would have found his recent regrettable attitude to the Worthing staff impossible to maintain.

To conclude this overlong note we would ask all of our readers to consider carefully the views of the contributors to our symposium, to weigh up the whole problem in their own minds, and to be ready to express to the Council their own opinions on the matter. In the sense that a large membership of the A.A.L. commands respect in itself, numbers count; therefore we most earnestly request every assistant librarian who reads these pages and who is not a member, to write *immediately* to Mr. G. P. Jones, Public Library, Bancroft Road, E.1., for a membership form. Those who are already members we would as earnestly request to persuade at least one colleague who is not a member to become one by next October. If everybody works in this direction we shall have 2000 members by the next annual report. It can be done, it should be done, it must be done, therefore "twere well 'twere done quickly."

FRANK PACY.

Mr. Frank Pacy was buried in Richmond Cemetery on June 29th. He died on Sunday, June 24th. Although for the last few years he had aged considerably, and ever since his long and serious illness of three years ago he had not enjoyed good health, yet the news of his death came as a sad surprise.

Born at Wishaw, Lanarkshire, in 1862, he was sub-librarian of the Wigan Public Library until 1883. For one year, 1883-84, he served in the Birmingham Public Libraries, and in 1894 was appointed librarian of Richmond, Surrey, a post he held until his appointment as librarian of St. George's, Hanover Square, in 1891, at the age of 29. Upon the creation of the Metropolitan Boroughs in 1900 he was elected the Chief Librarian of the City of Westminster, an office he held up to his retirement a month ago. Distinguished as he was in the world of librarianship it was perhaps in connection with his active association with the Library Association that he became known to all members of the library profession—at least in name if not in person. An Annual Conference seems almost unthinkable without him. During the whole of his professional career he was closely identified with the work of the Association, and in 1898 was appointed its Honorary Secretary. Three years later, as the result of domestic differences, he resigned that office. In 1915, when Mr. Jast relinquished the Honorary Secretaryship, Mr. Pacy, for a second time, took up the reins of office and carried the Association successfully through one of the most critical periods of its history. Mr. Pacy was, in the best sense of the word, a character. He stood in a class alone. As there can only be one Shakespeare in English literature, there can only be one Pacy in English librarianship. His personality was his charm and his attraction. He drew others to him and was capable of intense loyalties—both to persons and things. For the dignity and prestige of his profession he would face the world unflinchingly. For the Library Association he displayed a loyalty and enthusiasm—almost a religious conviction—that sometimes caused him to break friendships rather than suffer, from his point of view, the betrayal or loss of the privileges and powers of the beloved Association.

Si momentum requiris, circumspecte.—Take his "The Library Association: Early Days, A Retrospect," which was presented to the Jubilee Conference of the Library Association last September, and the Minority Report of the Departmental Committee on Public Libraries which was issued last year. The one shows his great gifts of wit and gentle irony, his graceful style of expression, and the other his breadth of vision and passionate attachment to an ideal, at their best. The whole of librarianship in general and the Library Association in particular are all the poorer for his loss. God grant his soul rest.

H.S.

WALTER POWELL, 1874—1928.

The death of Mr. Walter Powell on June 24th, at Wylde Green, near Birmingham, is a severe loss to librarianship and his many friends and admirers. He had been seriously ill for more than three years, but his energy and strict sense of duty kept him at work, apart from several comparatively short absences, until October, 1927, when he had to relinquish the control of the Birmingham Public Libraries. Only those who knew him best understood how galling it was to him to have to admit defeat, even at the hands of approaching death. Fortunately, he suffered practically no pain, but the growing weakness was pitiful by comparison with the old overflowing energy which was his most marked characteristic.

He began library work as a junior assistant at Lambeth under his uncle, Frank Burgoyne, on whose advice he sought a wider field at Birmingham, under J. D. Mullins. He soon built up a reputation there, and when Mr. Mullins retired and Mr. A. Capel Shaw succeeded him, Mr. Powell became Deputy Librarian at the early age of 25 years. When Mr. Shaw retired in 1912 there was not the slightest doubt as to his successor, and Mr. Powell easily justified his appointment. Under his guidance the Birmingham Libraries became one of the best systems in the country.

But it was less as a librarian than as a man that he will be remembered by those who knew him. The natural ability, acuteness and wide knowledge, with a remarkable memory and a sure judgment of character made him a capable administrator; as a keen disciplinarian he managed a scattered staff in a masterly manner; but the discipline was tempered by a whimsical kindliness and generosity which were not apparent to those who only met him occasionally. After a short acquaintance he showed himself as a hater of humbug, who could fearlessly denounce subterranean methods because he had no fear of a *tu quoque*. His own modesty helped him to give full credit always to his staff for good work, and his subordinates always knew that they were regarded as colleagues by "The Chief." Mistakes were always easily forgiven, but shiftiness and pretence were relentlessly dealt with by the straightest man most of us have known.

The A.A.L. loses in Mr. Powell a great friend. He always took a great interest in the Association, and once offered to resign from the Library Association Council to make room for a representative of the A.A.L. Library assistants will be

grateful to him for the help he gave on many occasions and in many ways, not least in the staff grading scheme which places the Birmingham staff in, perhaps, the most favourable position among the municipal libraries of the country.

H. M. C.

AMALGAMATION, FEDERATION OR STATUS QUO ? A SYMPOSIUM.

I.

The question of amalgamation is one of great importance to our own Association, and merits the most careful consideration. The lack of a united body, representing every grade of our profession, and every phase of librarianship, has been only too apparent in the past, and is evidenced by the comparatively isolated development of the County Library movement, which has only recently secured representation on the Council of the L.A., and by the formation of ASLIB. On such questions, too, as educational policy, registration, and other equally important matters, the lack of a representative opinion has been very obvious.

The L.A., by virtue of its Charter, is intended "to unite all persons engaged in, or interested in, library work." It is therefore natural to expect that that Association would form the basis of any united society, and would take the initiative in the proposals for amalgamation. As at present constituted, however, the L.A. most emphatically does not represent the profession as a whole. Its prohibitive subscription alone debars many assistants from membership, its Council is composed almost entirely of Chief Librarians, and few assistants are ever able to attend the annual conference. Our own Association, which was founded to meet a definite need, is performing certain indispensable functions not at present undertaken by any other association, and it is therefore not to be relinquished lightly. We need the assurance that membership of the united society will be within the means of all, and that every grade of librarianship will receive adequate representation upon the controlling body. The difficulties in the way of securing such an organisation ought not to be insuperable, and it is certainly an aim worth working for. Federation is at the best only a compromise, complicating rather than simplifying our organisation. Let us rather aim at complete union, even though it take a time to accomplish.

E. M. ALEXANDER (Norwich).

II.

I suppose that to-day not a single voice will be raised in protest against some form of closer co-operation between the various library societies. The American Library Association is an "all-in" body; so too, is the Scottish Library Association, and the success of these bodies and of the principle of their organisation is beyond dispute. The only question which gives pause to the reformer is whether some degree of independence should not be granted to the various interests affected, and, if so, how much. In other words—federation or amalgamation?

The question of the special libraries' interests need not detain us. With the splendid example before us of the activities of the County Libraries Section of the Library Association, who can doubt the glowing possibilities of strong sections for Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, for University and College Libraries, and for other specialised interests within an "all-in" body? There exists to-day an admirable model for our emulation in the British Association, with its perfect harmony between central and sectional organisations.

The real problem, however, is, to be brief, what shall we do with the library assistant? The possibilities are, I think, fairly obvious: (1) federation of the L.A. and the A.A.L.; (2) amalgamation with sectional organisation of these bodies as suggested above for the special interests; and, (3) unqualified amalgamation. If we can arrive at a clear understanding of the implications of these three policies we shall have practically solved the major problem of co-operation.

Of course, admission to the Library Association is to-day theoretically open to all of us; but I venture to surmise that there is hardly an assistant in the country who is satisfied with the present conditions of membership. The subscription is much too high; and the Annual Conference being barred to most by economic obstacles, the privileges offered are too few.

I am personally in favour of complete amalgamation into an Association similar in composition to the A.L.A. and the S.L.A., and organised in respect of sectional activities very much on the lines of the British Association, with national Annual Conferences, both special and general. But, in particular, I feel we must retain the distinctive Divisional organisation of the A.A.L., with its local conferences and social activities.

L. A. BURGESS (Cardiff).

III.

You do me the compliment of asking my opinion on the future relations of the A.A.L. and the L.A. I most earnestly desire to support Mr. Savage and to give my voice for complete union.

The A.A.L. has done excellent work; but in my view the L.A. should have made it possible for that work to be done within the four corners of the only Association which is bound by its charter to represent the whole library profession. It did not do so then; but it is now endeavouring to.

There are two conditions necessary for success in this endeavour. One is that the A.A.L. should be allowed to retain its corporate consciousness. This is provided for by the system of sections, conducting their own affairs and electing their own representatives to the Council, of which the County Library Section is the precedent example. The other condition is that the subscription should be sufficiently reduced to make membership possible to ill-paid assistants. This reform is at the moment being considered by Council. To the profession at large the advantages of union must surely be obvious. It is now scattered into half a dozen organisations, and helpless in the face of cheese-paring and illiberal authorities. United it could make its voice heard. The two associations too, would each have something to gain and nothing to lose. The L.A. would gain in membership and in youthful activity; the A.A.L. would gain in sharing the counsels of experience, and (if I may claim so much) receiving by right of membership a solid journal of current professional matter, of which their own excellent paper might form a distinct section.

Most important of all, entry into the L.A. is the only means of access for members of the A.A.L. to the professional register, a place in which will certainly be a *sine qua non* to any Assistant desiring advancement.

Is not our stand-offishness ridiculous?

ARUNDELL ESDAILE (British Museum,
Editor of *The Library Association Record*).

IV.

In reply to your request that I should give my opinion with regard to the suggested union of Library Associations.

It appears to me that from every point of view a Union of British Library Associations and Societies is most desirable and necessary, whether this union takes the form of federation or amalgamation, seems to be of lesser importance so long as

a strong and effective machinery is set to work which shall function for the whole of British Librarianship.

Before this can become practicable, however, it will be found necessary to throw existing constitutions into a general melting pot, to grant concessions, to make compromises, and to remember that "there is a past which is gone for ever, but there is a future which is still our own." Personally I do not think we can do better than copy the methods of the British Association, and to organise such a Society or Association upon sectional lines so that the interests of members of the now existent societies may to a certain measure still be safeguarded.

In the event of such an amalgamation taking place I think the subscriptions might be as low as 7/6 or 10/6. As to which Association or Society should make the first move, the A.A.L. has done very valuable work in the past, why should not the Council of that very vigorous body sound the reveille?

MARIAN FROST (Worthing).

V.

There can, I think, be no question on general grounds of the desirability of combining into one body all the associations concerned with library work.

The Council of the Library Association have recognised this, and in the revision of the bye-laws, which is to be submitted to the next Annual Meeting, provision has been made for the formation of sectional associations. One section is already informally in being, namely, that of the County Librarians.

Apart from any other considerations, the difficulty I see in the Association of Assistant Librarians coming into the Library Association is a financial one. It is not practical to run the Library Association, even on its present lines, apart altogether from future developments, on a low subscription. I do not say that it is beyond the wit of man to make some sort of an arrangement for assistant librarians in which the subscription to be paid should have some sort of relation to the salary received, but it would not be easy.

However, it is for the Association of Assistant Librarians to decide, first of all, whether they want to come into the Library Association, and ways and means can be considered afterwards. But in the interests of the assistants themselves, apart from the wider interests of the movement as a whole, it would never do for the Association to be perpetually struggling with a poverty-stricken income.

As regards federation, I have considerable suspicion of words of this sort, which in themselves mean nothing whatever. Everything would depend on what it implied.

My own feeling at the moment is that the matter of combination with the Library Association is not likely to come into the sphere of practical politics until assistants in a body are prepared to pay more towards the organisation of their profession than at present seems to be the case. I suppose it is true to say that, speaking generally, they are much better off than they were some years ago, but they still appear to want some sort of impossible return for their money as in the days gone by.

L. STANLEY JAST (Manchester).

VI.

Agreement is not unduly strained on the principle that some co-ordination of the work of societies interested in Bibliography and Librarianship would result in the elimination of much duplication of effort, but many opinions have been expressed on the form such co-operation should take.

Where two or more societies exist for identical purposes much of their work is redundant, and complete absorption in one body is to be advocated, but where the aims and objects of each are not identical, the degree to which amalgamation can proceed must be conditioned by degrees of likeness in their work. Arguments for complete amalgamation have generally been based on the features common to the L.A. and A.A.L. only, but the chief societies concerned include also the Bibliographical Society, and A.S.L.I.B., all possessing a general relationship to library work, but none overlapping the work of any other entirely. Complete amalgamation would be possible in cases where the work of associations is similar but not identical, provided that ways and means could be found for adequate representation of all. The drawbacks to immediate amalgamation exist largely on account of the number and claims of societies already established. It seems impossible for a single society to undertake immediately all the functions of the various bibliographical and library organisations now existing and carry out their duties and research with anything approaching the efficiency shown by the individual bodies, while the disparity in voting strength of the various organisations precludes the possibility of fair representation. The A.A.L., with over 1,000 members could secure an unduly high proportion of the representation of the amalgamated body and yet would not be able to function satisfac-

torily, since assistants have not the opportunity of attending conferences and council meetings as freely as Chief Librarians. With federation it should be possible to arrange proportional representation much more easily and amicably.

It seems then, that our immediate aim should be towards establishing a Federation of Library Societies, which should be responsible for matters of general library policy, the national movement, and legislation, while within that federation the various societies should preserve their individuality, and advance their own particular objects. Thirty-three years ago the need for an association for library assistants was felt, and the L.A.A. was formed. Since then it has been able, for a small subscription, to devote itself to the welfare of assistants as a whole, but at the same time to advance the policy of kindred societies on matters of mutual interest. Its work in education stands out prominently, and but for the keenness of members of the A.A.L. the programme of the L.A. for the education and training of librarians could not have been carried through.

R. W. LYNN (Wallasey).

VII.

There arrives a crisis in the lives of men and affairs when change seems inevitable, and should the psychological moment be missed, stagnation often results.

Such a time seems indicated in the affairs of librarianship in this country at the present moment.

We have the Library Association of Great Britain to direct the trend of affairs, and outside this, the parent association, a number of subsidiary associations. The aim of these associations is to raise the status of librarianship, and to establish it as the centre of the educational development of the country. There is a variety of interests, but one common object.

Such being the case it should be possible to unite under one association, and with the present revision of the bye-laws of the Library Association, the time seems opportune for effecting this.

The membership should be made wide enough to embrace all ranks in the profession, from the Chief of the British Museum to the most junior assistant. The subscriptions could be graded according to salary, from 5/- to £2. 2s., but all would be members of the parent association. The association could be divided into Branches and Sections, the former based upon geographical considerations, and the latter on similarity of

interests; each branch or section could have its own governing body, with direct representation upon the Council of the L.A.

The publication of a monthly magazine containing news items, notes of meetings, advertisements of appointments vacant, and short articles upon topics of current interest would be an asset, and need not necessarily infringe upon the present quarterly Record.

Inasmuch as unity is strength, the advantages of union should far outweigh any disadvantages, and should result in a powerful organisation with community of interests and furtherance of the object for which both we and the associations exist.

KATE E. PIERCE (Kettering).

VIII.

To say that the present organisation of librarians into different associations and societies whose interests are fundamentally indetical is bad for the profession is merely stating a platitude. No one having the best interests of the profession at heart can fail to realise the value of *one* organised body of library workers, embracing all those engaged in library administration and those interested in librarianship. Such an association would enhance the dignity of the profession—it would be *the* authoritative body on all matters relating to librarianship, and is the only means whereby the profession can be properly organised.

It is when we come to consider the best means of effecting this that we realise the practical difficulties of the problem. Should there be complete union or federation? Personally federation does not appeal to me as I think it would mean merely a repetition in a less obvious form of the present situation. Some members of the A.A.L. fear that amalgamation might mean the loss of the younger body's individuality. I do not agree—we are numerically stronger than the Library Association, and amalgamation would introduce the much-needed live enthusiasm into the parent body.

The question of subscriptions is another difficulty. A very low subscription is apt to reduce the dignity of the profession, but the subscription must not be so high as to debar the junior assistant. I suggest a minimum subscription of half a guinea.

The best course appears to me to be for a committee composed of representatives of each of the present societies and associations to go thoroughly into the question and issue a report with recommendations, which could be considered at

the next annual meeting of each body. I think the Library Association should invite all interested to nominate representatives to serve on such a committee, but action must not be delayed.

If we must have federation before union then let us federate, by all means. Union or federation *must* come—let us submerge our minor prejudices and petty grievances in a vital effort to substantiate ultimately that vision which has at some time come to all of us—the vision of a profession whose status shall be as generally accepted as that of the medical or legal profession.

JOHN V. SUMMERFIELD (Richmond, Surrey).

IX.

On the important question of the union of library societies, I am emphatically in favour of complete union, and if all parties really desire it I am certain that it can be accomplished. Federation may possibly be better than the present segregation, but I doubt if the results would justify the trouble and labour involved.

Given the will by all library societies to work for union, a major difficulty so far as the A.A.L. is concerned, is the subscription, and I suggest that a subscription of half a guinea for the lowest grade of membership is not likely to bear unduly on assistants over 18 years of age.

Of the many advantages of union, the greatest is that one big organisation representing all professional librarians must inevitably be stronger than several sectional organisations. The increased energy and financial gain resulting from a larger membership will inevitably have a considerable effect on the development and efficiency of the library movement generally, and will ultimately benefit the status of the profession of librarianship. To my mind, the great disadvantage of union for the A.A.L. lies in the loss of its own splendid individuality, and the removal of the opportunity that it provides for debate to younger members; although the latter point might be met by some sort of junior section.

As to the lines on which union can take place, it is obvious that the constitution of any existing organisation does not at present provide a suitable basis for union with other societies, and the easiest method of disposing of this difficulty appears to be the appointment of representatives from all existing societies to formulate a constitution that will be acceptable to all as a basis of union.

VICTOR WOODS (Reference Library, Birmingham).

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. EXAMINATION, MAY, 1928.

(LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES).

SECTION I.—LITERARY HISTORY.

131 Candidates sat.

Honours 2, Merits 8, Passes 63.

Honours.

Minto, C. S., Edinburgh.

Walford, A. J., Stoke Newington.

Merits.

Barratt, Miss P. M., Derby.
Chadband, Miss W. M., Preston.
Dalgarno, Miss H. R., Dundee.
Inglis, Miss V. M., Glasgow.

Pepin, F., Bournemouth.
Purdie, J. B., Willesden.
Thompson, C. H., Sutton Coldfield.
Walker, Miss G. M., Birmingham.

Passes.

Aitken, F. C., Glasgow.
Allonby, Miss E. D., Sheffield.
Arbuckle, Miss M. G., Glasgow.
Arch, Miss W., Birmingham.
Austin, Miss C. A., Gloucester.
Barnes, F., Wigan.
Beasley, Miss L. A., Coventry.
Bevan Evans, M. J., Mold, Flint-shire.
Boyle, Miss J., Glasgow.
Carr, L. F., Sheffield.
Clark, E. J., Dorchester.
Coombe, E. J., Exeter.
Davey, Miss M., Worthing.
Fairchild, W., Barking, Essex.
Flegg, Miss G., Ipswich.
Flinn, Miss K., Grays, Essex.
French, Miss I. W., Glasgow.
Gallagher, F. A., Glasgow.
Garrick, Miss E., Sunderland.
Gemmell, J., Glasgow.
German, L. J., Bristol.
Gilliam, J. L., Croydon.
Graham, D., Glasgow.
Gray, Miss E. M., Glasgow.
Harrod, L., Croydon.
Hiles, Miss L. M., Newport, Mon.
Hobday, Miss E. M., Coventry.
Hogendorp, Miss I., Glasgow.
Hutchings, F. G. B., Leeds.
Jerrard, P. R., Bethnal Green.
Johnson, Miss D. M., Birmingham.
Johnson, Miss O. A., Cambridge.
Knowles, Miss E., Glasgow.
Leath, C., Bolton.

Lee, Miss B. I., Bolton.
Lindsay, G. S. D., North Shields.
Luke, E. R., Aberystwyth.
Lukins, C. J., Yeovil.
McCahill, Miss B., Glasgow.
McCaig, Miss E., Stranraer, Wigtown.
Mackie, Miss E., Glasgow.
Mackinnon, Miss E. M., Glasgow.
Millward, Miss M., Edgbaston, Birmingham.
Moyle, Miss E. M., Central Library for Students.
Ogden, Miss M., Manchester.
Osborne, Miss N., Derby.
Panchen, Miss E. V., Aberystwyth.
Pugsley, W. C., Kingston-on-Thames.
Pyman, Miss E. E., Ipswich.
Randall, Miss D., Birmingham.
Robins, Miss E., Bournemouth.
Sharpe, Miss D., Croydon.
Sharples, Miss F. M., Manchester.
Smith, Miss L., Norwich.
Spurr, Miss M. M., Bolton.
Stewart, W., Glasgow.
Summerfield, J. V., Richmond.
Watson, Miss J. J., St. Andrew's, Fife.
Westwood, Miss E. M., Smethwick.
Welch, Miss H., Glasgow.
Wright, V. R., Newport, Mon.
Whittaker, L., Manchester.
White, L., Sheffield.

SECTION II.—BIBLIOGRAPHY.

62 Candidates sat.

Honours —, Merits 3, Passes 23.

Merits.

Hall, J. G., Hull.

Hobby, W. J., Chelsea.

Waterhouse, Miss E. A., Bradford.

Passes.

Bennett, C., Warrington.

Bradley, Miss M., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Carnell, Miss E. J., Exeter.

Clark, Miss E. M., Hastings.

Clark, G. H., Bethnal Green.

Dalgarno, Miss H. R., Dundee.

Dawes, Miss M., Bradford.

Furness, Miss N., Middlesbrough.

Green, Miss L., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Hounscome, J., Canning Town.

Lynes, Miss A. G., Coventry.

Parker, G. C. J., Hammersmith.

Reed, E. O., Coventry.

Riches, J. E., Croydon.

Riches, Miss P. M., St. Marylebone.

Russ, Miss E. A., Bath.

Sheffield, Miss M. C., Birmingham.

Singleton, A., Chorley.

Smith, B. O., Hounslow.

Snaith, Miss M., Carlisle.

Speight, Miss P. M., Johannesburg.

Webster, Miss E. M., Dundee.

Watkins, A. H., Gainsborough.

SECTION III.—CLASSIFICATION.

143 Candidates sat.

Honours —, Merits —, Passes 53.

Passes.

Allen, Miss N. G., Accrington.

Andrews, Miss E. R., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Appleby, Miss P., Richmond.

Barnes, Miss E., Battersea.

Bebbington, J., Bolton.

Bissett, Miss M. W., Manchester.

Black, Miss C. J., Manchester.

Blackburn, R. H., Chorley.

Brown, T., Edinburgh.

Chorlton, Miss J. M., Manchester.

Cooks, Miss K. M., Birmingham.

Critchley, Miss F., Birkenhead.

Deane, Miss A., Liverpool.

Ellis, Miss C. J., Hayle, Cornwall.

Emslie, G. C., Glasgow.

Fairweather, E., Worksop.

Garner, Miss D., Warrington.

Govier, Miss D. N., Birmingham.

Harding, Miss D., Tunbridge Wells.

Hardman, Miss B., Rochdale.

Hiles, G. R., Preston.

Holman, Miss L. R., Middlesbrough.

Howarth, H. H., Bolton.

Illingworth, Miss E., Manchester.

Jackson, G. P., Leeds.

Jackson, Miss I. F., Maidstone.

Johnson, Miss K., Bradford.

Knowles, Miss G. P., Maidstone.

Lawler, Miss B. P., Liverpool.

Lingard, Miss C. A., Manchester.

Longhurst, Miss W. M., Wallington, Surrey.

Lukins, C. J., Yeovil.

McClellan, A. W., Tottenham.

McGill, Miss H. M., Manchester.

McLeod, D., Glasgow.

Melling, C., Wigan.

Naylor, H., Bolton.

Newland, C. A., Limehouse.

Pummell, M. T., Fulham.

Sherwood, J., Huddersfield.

Smith, E. A., Croydon.

Stapleton, Miss D., Liverpool.

Stephens, G. B., St. Marylebone.

Steward, A. V., Norwich.

Taylor, Miss M. S., Coventry.

Thompson, A., York.

Tillie, Miss H. A., Kingston-on-Thames.

Watson, Miss J. J., St. Andrew's, Fife.

Watson, Miss M. C., Brighton.

Weston, Miss M. E., Birmingham.

White, M., Bradford.

Wright, Miss C. L., Leicester.

Wright, Miss G. M., Woolwich.

SECTION IV.—CATALOGUING.

102 Candidates sat.

Honours —, Merits —, Passes 58.

Passes.

Allison, Miss A. G., Glasgow.	Hall, Miss E. M., Portsmouth.
Arrowsmith, Miss G. L., Canterbury.	Hawes, S. A., Norwich.
Ashworth, T., Bolton.	Hewitt, R., Manchester.
Atherton, Miss M., Wolverhampton.	Hill, Miss G. A., Bath.
Bateman, R. P., Stoke Newington.	Jackson, Miss I. F., Maidstone.
Balfour, Miss M. A., Edinburgh.	Jenkins, Miss M., Widnes.
Barnes, R. B., Manchester.	Knowles, Miss G. P., Maidstone.
Blackburn, R. H., Chorley.	Lord, N. C., Bolton.
Brand, Miss A. M., Birkenhead.	Lythgoe, Miss F. M., Liverpool.
Caistor, H. C., Gainsborough.	Madden, Miss C., Stockport.
Carruthers, T. S., Edinburgh.	Martin, J., Edinburgh.
Cartledge, J. A., Manchester.	Morgan, Miss J. E., Aberystwyth.
Clare, P., Bermondsey.	Oxbury, Miss D. G., Norwich.
Coates, Miss B., Leeds.	Paterson, Miss J. H., Birmingham.
Coldicott, Miss K. M., Hereford.	Paton, W. B., Glasgow.
Cooks, Miss K. M., Birmingham.	Peck, J. E., Greenwich.
Cooper, Miss E. K., Norwich.	Rolland, G. H., Glasgow.
Corbett, Miss P. T. M., St. Mary-lebone.	Rowland, Miss J. F., Johannesburg.
Corley, Miss H., Liverpool.	Roxburgh, Miss K. J., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Cox, C. S., Leicester.	Shield, Miss M., Bolton.
Davies, J. H., Birmingham.	Shipton, Miss S. A., Richmond.
Egarr, J., Bradford.	Simpson, E., Sheffield.
Eglinton, Miss A. N., Glasgow.	Smith, B. O., Hounslow.
Evans, Miss N. M., Portsmouth.	Trinder, Miss S. M., Wimbledon.
Galt, W., Birkenhead.	Walker, Miss V. W., Nottingham.
Gaskin, G., Walthamstow.	Wilkinson, L. H., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Gee, Miss J., Wigan.	Williams, Miss M. J., Newport, Mon.
Gemmell, Miss M. L., Glasgow.	Wood, Miss A., Burnley.
Goodwin, Miss A. M., Birmingham.	
Gregson, Miss G., Pontefract, Yorks.	

SECTION V.—LIBRARY ORGANISATION.

79 Candidates sat.

Honours —, Merits —, Passes 32.

Passes.

Adey, F. C., Manchester.	Jacka, Miss S. P. T., Preston.
Allen, Miss J. M., Edinburgh.	Jones, Miss C. A., Liverpool.
Bearman, H. K. G., Leyton.	Luke, Miss A., Kirkcaldy.
Beattie, Miss M., Derby.	Madders, Miss E., Manchester.
Bertie, Miss O. B., Aberystwyth.	Mardall, Miss K., Brighton.
Bletcher, E., Sheffield.	Noble, T., Manchester.
Cooper, Miss A. H., Norwich.	Partridge, R., Bermondsey.
Drewery, R. F., Hull.	Pilling, Miss E., Liverpool.
Etchells, Miss D., Derby.	Rae, D., Brixton.
Evans, Miss G., Bridgend, Glam.	Sayell, R. C., Watford.
Fieldhouse, Miss C. M., Sheffield.	Sharkey, Miss K. M., Lowestoft.
Forsyth, J. W., Edinburgh.	Sherwood, Miss E. L., Coventry.
Holman, Miss L. R., Middlesbrough.	Singleton, A., Chorley.

Smith, F. R. S., Guildhall Library. Thorne, Miss W. K., High Commissioner for India.
 Stevenson, W. B., Wallasey. Wigley, Miss F. E., Manchester.
 Stratton, G., Birkenhead. Wisker, E., Fulham.

SECTION VI.—LIBRARY ROUTINE.

171 Candidates sat.

Honours —, Merits 1, Passes 43.

Merit.

Austin, Miss M. F., Sheffield.

Passes.

Armstrong, Miss K. A., Colchester.	Kennedy, Miss I. E. M., Seven Kings.
Ashworth, T., Bolton.	
Barnes, Miss E. J., Leamington Spa.	Kirton, Miss W. I., Eccles.
Batty, E. A., Greenwich.	Kraan, Mrs. M., Retford, Nottingham.
Burbridge, Miss A. E., Leeds.	Lukins, C. J., Yeovil.
Burland, Miss M. E., Coventry.	McAskie, J., Glasgow.
Cole, Miss M. A., Fulham.	MacCallum, Miss E. K., Glasgow.
Colin, Miss M., West Ham.	Macdonald, J. H., Bradford.
Cook, W. B., Stepney.	McDougall, Miss F. G., Glasgow.
Cooper, T., Preston.	Miller, D. Y., Wallasey.
Corry, Miss M., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.	Pollard, Miss V. M., Bath.
Duff, Miss M. E., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.	Robertson, Miss C., Glasgow.
Ellis, Miss F. M., Ipswich.	Rooksby, Miss E. D., Cardiff.
Fleet, Miss C. A., Portsmouth.	Roscoe, Miss C. E., Coventry.
Francis, Miss M. I., Manchester.	Shaw, Miss M. A., Preston.
Gamester, E. R., Plaistow.	Somers, B., Cardiff.
Green, Miss I., Liverpool.	Thomas, Miss E. M., Liverpool.
Harwood, Miss L., Central Library for Students.	Thomson, Miss A. P., St. Andrew's.
Irving, E. B., Wallasey.	Turner, G. O., Bournemouth.
Kennedy, Miss E. M., Birkenhead.	Turner, Miss M. N., Glasgow.
	Walker, N., Sheffield.
	Watson, Miss B. S., Glasgow.
	Wilson, Miss K. S., Glasgow.
	Wood, Miss G. G., Radcliffe, Lancs.

THE DIVISIONS.

EASTERN COUNTIES DIVISION.

A delightful, if informal, meeting took place at Felixstowe, on Thursday, June 28th, at which the Division were the guests of the Ipswich members. The Division met at the Ipswich Central Library at 1.45 p.m., and proceeded to Felixstowe by steamer, down the river Orwell, and by bus from Felixstowe Pier. The trip was very enjoyable, but occupied so much time that business had to be transacted over the tea-table, and confined severely to essentials.

The following announcements were made :

Miss Durrant, Chief Librarian, Lowestoft Public Library, to be President of the Division for the ensuing year.

Miss N. Wood (Lowestoft) to be Treasurer.

Mr. H. G. Wood (Norwich) to be Secretary.

An invitation was received from Mr. Fenton, Librarian, Public Library, Cambridge, for the Division to hold their next meeting at Cambridge, on Thursday, September 13th or 20th. The meeting resolved to accept the invitation for the latter date, detailed arrangements being left to the Secretary.

The proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Ipswich members for their hospitality.

H. G. Wood, *Secretary*.

SOUTH EASTERN DIVISION.

The first Annual Meeting of the re-organised South-Eastern Division was held under ideal weather conditions, at Ditchling, on Wednesday, July 11th. Mr. Lister, Chief Librarian of Hove, had arranged a most delightful afternoon's programme. At Hassocks Station the party, numbering 30, found motor conveyances waiting to take them to St. Dominics Press, which is situated on Ditchling Common. By kind permission of Mr. Pepler, owner of the press, the party were shown the printing shed and some of the beautiful specimens of printing now being done by the hand presses there. In addition visits were paid to the woodwork, weaving, and sculpture sections, also to the Chapel built by this little colony. A ramble over the Downs back to Ditchling occupied nearly two hours, and there the party did justice to the tea so generously provided by Mr. Lister in his charming garden.

The Business Meeting was presided over by the President of the Division, Miss Ethel Gerard.

The Hon. Secretary (Miss G. Dean) having read the Report, which is appended, the Chairman moved, and Miss Talmey seconded, that the report be adopted. This was agreed to unanimously.

The appointment of officers and committee for the ensuing year was then announced.

President: Miss E. Gerard, Worthing; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. Hamblyn, Eastbourne; Hon. Secretary: Miss G. Dean, Worthing; Hon. Auditor: Miss E. Young, Brighton. Committee—one member for each library in the area:

Brighton, Mr. E. Male.

Eastbourne, Miss K. Hartnup.

Hastings, Miss E. Clarke.

Hove, Miss F. L. Talmey.

Lewes, Mr. H. Wilson.

Worthing, Miss W. Fox.

A very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Lister was proposed by Mr. Male, while Mr. Webb proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring officers and committee. A thoroughly successful and most enjoyable meeting was brought to a termination about 8.45 p.m., and as the party broke up expressions of gratitude to Mr. Lister for this outstanding evidence of kindness and hospitality were heard on all sides.

As was done last year, it was decided that instead of holding the usual quarterly Meeting in October at one of the Libraries within the Division, all members who could do so, would make an effort to attend the Inaugural Meeting of the Winter Session to be held in London on October 10th.

Report presented at the First Annual Meeting of the re-organised South Eastern Division, held at Ditchling, on Wednesday, July 11th, 1928.

The Committee have pleasure in submitting their Report on the work of the re-organised South Eastern Division during its first session.

Membership.—The total membership of the Division is 37, of which 1 is a Fellow, 32 are Members, and 4 are Associates. During the year 2 Associates and 2 Members have been enrolled, while 2 Members have resigned.

Meetings.—The Annual Meeting was held on July 11th, 1927, at Chichester, when a most enjoyable afternoon was spent in visiting various places of historical interest in the city. The Autumn Meeting was abandoned, members attended instead the Inaugural Meeting held in London on October 5th. The Winter Meeting was held at Brighton on January 20th, and took the form of a Magazine Night, when 13 contributions were received; these were all exceptionally good. A ballot was taken after the reading of the papers and prizes were given to the writers of the two papers receiving the highest number of votes. The prize-winners were Miss W. Fox, of Worthing, for her contribution "Cinderella—a pantomime, offered with all due apologies to Members of the South Eastern Division, for use when they are superannuated and wish to turn their thoughts towards earning an honest living"; and Miss E. Simpson, of Worthing, writer of "Some English letter writers." A prize was also given to the best reader of a paper, and this was awarded to Miss Gray, of Hastings. The arrangements for the Spring Meeting had unfortunately to be altered at a very short notice. The Committee had arranged that a prize of 10/6 should be given for the best paper on "Practical Suggestions arising out of the Report on Public Libraries in England and Wales," and that all papers received should be read at the meeting to be held at Eastbourne on April 20th. No contributions were, however, sent, and in order to prevent the meeting being cancelled, Miss Gerard, President of the Division, very kindly gave a most interesting paper on "Some Sussex Libraries and their owners."

Officers.—At the last Annual Meeting, Miss Gerard was elected to the office of Hon. President, Miss G. Dean and Mr. A. Hamblyn were elected as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively, and Miss E. Young was elected Hon. Auditor. The Committee, consisting of one member from each library in the area were elected as follows: Miss E. Clarke (Hastings), Miss W. Fox (Worthing), Miss K. Hartnup (Eastbourne), Mr. E. Male (Brighton), Miss Purdue (Hove), Mr. Wilson (Lewes).

The Committee are proud to announce that Mr. Arthur Webb, of Brighton, has been elected President of the Association of Assistant Librarians. This is a well-merited compliment to one who has done much for the Association, and the Committee offer him their most hearty congratulations. Miss Gerard has been re-elected as the Divisional Representative to serve on the General Council of the A.A.L. for the ensuing year.

Finance.—The finances of the Division are in a very satisfactory condition, as shown by the appended statement of receipts and expenditure. The Hon. Treasurer reports a balance in hand of £10 1s. 11½d.

Thanks are tendered to the Authorities of the Libraries where meetings have been held, to the contributors of the Magazine articles, to Miss Gerard for her paper, to Mr. Hardcastle, and to Mr. Ruskin Butterfield for his generous offer of £1 1s. to be used for any prize scheme the Committee may formulate.

The Committee would be glad to see more of the members coming forward with offers of help in the way of suggestions for papers, and in conclusion, make a special appeal to them to do their best to make the ensuing year an interesting and successful one.

(Signed) ETHEL GERARD (Chairman).

GRACE L. DEAN (Hove. Secretary).

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1927-1928.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand ...	3	7	7	Remitted to Hdqrs. ...	8	7	0
Transferred from S.C.				Secretary's and Treasurer's postage, printing, etc. ...	1	16	2½
Div. on sub-divn. of area 3	12	9		Balance in hand, with Bank Interest ...	10	1	11½
1927-8 Subscriptions ...	13	1	0				
1927 Bank deposit interest	0	3	10				
	£20	5	2		£20	5	2

Examined and found correct,

(Signed) W. M. JOHNSON,
K. M. MARDELL.

June 18th, 1928.

THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

The following awards have been made at University College, London, in the School of Librarianship:

Entrance Exhibition.—Mary M. E. Hammond, of Northampton High School.

Sir John MacAlister Medal (for the most distinguished of the Diploma candidates of the year).—E. E. Smart.

Director's Prize.—D. W. King.

The following have passed the examination for the Diploma in Librarianship:—L. W. A. Andrew, Gladys M. K. Beck, Rhoda Bennett, Iris A. Carbis, Elsie Cockerlyne, Florence E. Cook, Ann P. Deeley, Paule E. G. B. de Lepervanche, Isobel A. Evans, Cecilia R. Fisher, S. B. Gardner, Eva M. Glanville, G. J. Hopkins, D. W. King, Doris Knight, Barbara R. F. Kyle, Betty D. Newton, Alicia H. Page, Monica M. A. Peatson, O. W. Pendleton, Jane G. Roger, Constance A. Rogers, E. E. Smart, A. E. Tooth, Edna Weaver, A. Yaari, Frances A. Yorke.

The following have obtained the Full Diploma in Librarianship:—Lilian R. Andrews, Evelyn Ansell, Dorothy L. Atkins, Margaret E. Cohen, Edith N. Gibbons, G. E. Haslam, Greta L. Harting, Lilian Hurd, Cynthia M. L. Stenhouse, Jessie L. Waller.

OUR LIBRARY.

A Flying Scroll. By Stanley Snaith. 7½ by 5 ins. pp. 24. Hogarth Press. 2s. 6d. net.

In this, his second volume of poems, Mr. Snaith reveals to the careful reader that in the past few years his work has been, to use his own words, "sloughing, consuming towards the faultless being." To envisage the difference between *April Morning*, in the first volume, and *The Wave*, or *Snow*, in the new, is to realise and appreciate the growth of the poet's mental experience and technique. *April Morning* was near to perfection, and so too are *October*, *The Flower*, *Rain*, *Spring Sowing*, *The Green Wood*, and *Kingfisher*, but the essential and characteristic drift of Mr. Snaith's mind is away from such short felicities to more

weighty and closely knit emotional evocations. In one way, this is all to the good, for the poet who does not develop is damned. Sir William Watson, Martin Tupper, Montgomery, and too many others turned out the same kind of verse at forty as they did at twenty—with fatal results.

A comparison between Mr. Snaith's two books, shows then, that he is moving towards a goal of which he is perhaps himself little aware. Therefore, although *October, Rain*, and *Spring Sowing* are among the most beautiful poems in *A Flying Scroll*, yet it must be to *Snow*, *Genesareth*, *The Empty Vessel*, and *The Wave* that the critic must direct his deepest attention, for here we see the author in his most significant moods. Of these latter poems, *Snow* and *The Empty Vessel* seem to us to be the most successful, in that here, phrasing, mood, rhythm and emotional content are thrust by the poet's artistic will into a consistent and appropriate mould: the result being a fine, original and sincere piece of work. *Summer Ocean* and *The Ruin* are so overloaded with words, that, as if the poetic Plimsoll line had been exceeded, the poems sink grudgingly into the mind, leaving little trace behind them save the gentle sway of a phrase here and there which catches a gleam of beauty ere it is submerged in the pounding urge of heavy syllables.

We have written enough, we hope, to assure our readers that we think Mr. Snaith to be one of the best of our younger poets, and that his work demands (and merits) the closest attention. *A Flying Scroll* is undoubtedly a book to live with for many weeks, and to return to frequently, for only then will the full richness of its quiet but unmistakable beauty be wholly absorbed. Only occasionally does Mr. Snaith write such an ugly line as "Its history is impenetrable fathoms," but on the other hand felicities such as "The hour comes when coming snow massily threatens," or (of a frail flower)

Gust-tugged yet staunch, its cup of blue
Pooled to the lip with thundery dew—

are by no means rare.

Lack of space forbids lengthy quotation, but the following may give an idea of the quiet beauty of the smaller poems:

Return to Mountain Country.

The hills crept round and in their mighty span
Folded me safe and secret and apart:
And, fostered fresh for me beneath the dew,
A tranquil pasture took my print anew.
The ancient stillness filled me, and there ran
A hundred hillstreams down to my lowland heart.

Sequel Stories: English and American. By Thomas Aldred. Second Edition by W. H. Parker. With a foreword by Hugh Walpole. (pp. 91. 6½ by 8½ ins. Cloth. Association of Assistant Librarians. 7/6 net).

The long-awaited second and revised edition of this indispensable handbook has been loyally supported by librarians, and the results of quite small publicity have far exceeded expectations. We venture to affirm that those who found the first edition useful will be very pleased with the results of Mr. Parker's labours. This edition is pleasantly bound in blue cloth and is a much more comely affair than the first edition. We are glad to see that many titles have been deleted, but the numerous entries of some unimportant series have often been partially retained by a one-line note giving merely the number of volumes in the series. This method is surely both wasteful and useless. Why not leave them out all together? Some popular juvenile series have been thus

treated which should have been given in full—D. F. Bruce, Ellis, etc., and we also note the omission of J. J. Connington's detective series. More serious than this, however, is the omission of the full series of Proust's "*A la recherche du temps perdu*." It is true that this work is only partially translated, but the others will follow—when the censorship authorities grow up; in any case every library of importance stocks the French text in its entirety. The work of revision has been laborious, and it has been well done. The thanks of the Association are due therefore, to Mr. Parker and his willing helpers. Copies may be ordered direct from Mr. G. F. Vale, Bethnal Green Public Library, E.2.

F. S. S.

Bethnal Green Public Libraries. Catalogue of the books added to the Adult Lending and Reference Libraries, which were published during 1927. (8vo.; pp. 114; 1d.)

Between the advocates of printed catalogues and those who pin their faith to cards, there is a great gulf fixed. A publication such as this should do much to bridge the chasm. It is of convenient size, well printed, simple to use, and nominal in price. It contains, in addition to the list of books purchased in 1927, a catalogue of music which has been added since 1924.

The main catalogue clearly shows that no effort has been spared to keep the library stock up-to-date, and it is equally obvious that Bethnal Green is no supporter of that policy of censorship and surveillance of which we have recently heard so much.

T. E. C.

SHORT NOTICES.

Reports, Catalogues, Bulletins, &c.

Barking. 39th Annual Report.

Stock: 27,938; Borrowers: 7,849; Tickets: 8,883; Issues: 260,895; Daily average: 884; Book grant: £794.

Battersea. 41st Annual Report.

Stock: 84,375; Borrowers: 17,512; Issues: 525,309; contains many interesting illustrations of the libraries.

Burnley Library Journal. No. 3. July.

A lively newcomer, giving, *inter alia*, the information that tenders are now being invited for the erection of the new central library. The briefest glance at the new book list reveals the stimulating fact that the book selection at Burnley is on a very high level indeed. The cream of modern literature is not only procured but it is procured before it has had time to sour; noting in a brief glance entries for Dent's new book on English opera, Read's *English prose style*, Taylor's *Leonardo*, Van Druten's *Young Woodley*, Soltau's *Pascal*, and Wilson's book on Emily Brontë, we feel we can safely leave this bulletin to speak for itself.

Coventry. Readers' Bulletin. July—August.

The summer issue is well up to its usual high standard. This number is a "Bunyan" number.

Darlington. Annual Report.

Stock: 45,909; Borrowers: 11,458; Tickets: 18,146; Issues: 397,026.

Fulham. 40th Annual Report.

Stock : 67,500; Borrowers : 20,092; Tickets : 30,577; Issues : 541,281;
Daily average : 2,028; Book grant : £962.

This very fully and carefully compiled report should prove a useful piece of publicity, for the attention of the Committee is drawn to the need for keeping the stock up-to-date and the drain which this makes on a comparatively small book grant.

Gateshead. 42nd Annual Report.

Stock 58,499; Borrowers : 19,411; Issues : 420,266.

Hackney. Report, 1927—8.

Stock : 102,187; Borrowers : 33,768; Tickets : 60,654; Issues : 900,768.

Halifax Readers' Guide. June.**Hornsey Quarterly Review, No. 4.**

Contains an exceptionally good list of recent additions to dramatic literature.

Huddersfield. Annual Report.

Stock : 59,840; Tickets : 21,056; Issues : 390,005.

Ipswich Library Journal. July.

A well-edited magazine drawing successfully on the zeal and ability of staff and readers, thus helping, among other things, to break down the artificial barrier between them.

Kingston-on-Thames. Annual Report.

Stock : 23,082; Borrowers : 4,533; Tickets : 5,689; Issues : 139,254.

Leeds. Commercial and Technical Bulletin. June.**Sheffield. New Books. May.****Yorkshire : North Riding. County Library. 3rd Annual Report.**

Borrowers : 23,193; Stock : 35,837; Issues from Headquarters : 77,296;
Issues from Local Centres : 388,083; Books borrowed from C.L.S. : 254;
Salaries : £553; Book grant : £1,612; Transport charges : £187; Travelling : £134.

Wallasey Readers' Guide. July.

We welcome this new quarterly. It contains a useful centenary list of Tolstoy's works and a note on C. E. Montague.

Bulletins are acknowledged with many thanks from the following libraries; pressure of space prohibits our usual notes, but the magazines, etc., are all available to those interested: The A.L.A., Chicago; Boston; Brooklyn; Columbia University; St. Louis; Indianapolis; Newark; Pittsburgh.

Library Journal : June, July, August numbers.

The Countryman : July.

Contents : Where money is being made in farming ; points for touring townsmen ; my six years' farming ; a small country house ; drawings and plans.

Another excellent issue of this now famous quarterly. A most readable and useful magazine, which we are glad to see has become well-established in public favour.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor, THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

July, 1928.

CENSORSHIP AND MR. ENGALL.

SIR,—Mr. Engall is undertaking an onerous task when he takes sweet seventeen under his wing. The sexually starved nature inclines naturally to viciousness. The boy of seventeen is very much of an animal, and I admit that his hormones are easily stirred by books. But when Mr. Engall assumes (on what evidence I know not) that such a response is necessarily an evil one, we part company. Quotations from the 'nineties are beside the point. No boys have a better chance of reading saucy books than library assistants. How is it that they are not in reformatories? Is it because of a superiority, in this respect, over the average boy? Tut, tut!

When Mr. Engall states that few books are officially banned he drops his guard most invitingly. The banning of even a single book each year is enough to condemn a censorship; for it is not the act of suppression alone which is objectionable, but also the setting up of an artificial criterion to which artists must conform. The result is that many a work of art gathers dust on its author's shelf. (When are we going to get the rest of *De Profundis*?). I wonder that Mr. Engall did not add that authors seldom complain. Perhaps he bethought himself of the parson on the cannibal's platter. He also does not complain.

The fact is that between our standpoints there is an impassable gulf. Mr. Engall wants to protect the young. I believe the remedy to be worse than the ill. Mr. Engall roundly declares that Boccaccio corrupts youth. I, equally roundly, deny it. I have no hope of convincing Mr. Engall; instead I refer him to a more eloquent advocate. I urge him to read George Moore on the persecution of Zola's English publisher. And finally, I would remind him of the episode of Donnybrook Fair. The verdict was that a man with so thin a skull had no right to be at Donnybrook Fair. Similarly, boys with such corruptible natures —

Yours, etc.,

Islington Public Library.

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- *PATRICK, F. J., Inspector of Lending Libraries, Birmingham, to be Deputy City Librarian.
- *GRINDLE, HARRY, Librarian of the Central Lending Library, Birmingham, to be Inspector, Lending Libraries.
- *REVIE, JAMES, Cardiff Public Libraries, to be a Senior Assistant in the Birmingham Public Libraries. Commencing salary: £275 p.a.
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*Those marked with an asterisk are members of the A.A.L.

- ***BEARMAN, HENRY K.**, Assistant, Leyton, to be Assistant, East Ham Public Libraries. Two L.A. Certificates and Part I. of the School of Librarianship Diploma. Salary: £100, rising to £155, plus the Civil Service Bonus. (Also selected, A. H. Watkins, Gainsborough; *E. Wisker, Fulham).
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